

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 211447

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SPANISH FOREIGN
MINISTER CORTINA.

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS FROM SPANISH
FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY
CONCERNING SPANISH SAHARA PROBLEM.

1. CORTINA THEN BROUGHT UP SPANISH SAHARA, RESTATING
SPANISH THESIS, ACCORDING TO WHICH GOS CARRYING
OUT UN RESOLUTION TO LETTER. GOS DOES NOT WANT WAR
BUT CANNOT AGREE TO MOROCCAN PLAN TO SUBMIT ISSUE TO ICJ.
GOS HAD TO INSIST ON SELF-DETERMINATION PLEBESCITE,
ALTHOUGH IF SAHARANS EVENTUALLY ASKED FOR INDEPENDENCE,
THEY WOULD BE FREE LATER TO JOIN MOROCCO, MAURITANIA
OR ANY ONE ELSE.

2. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WERE NOT TAKING SIDES IN
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ISSUE EXCEPT TO TELL OUR FRIENDS THAT WAR MUST BE AVOIDED

AT ALL COSTS. CORTINA THEN IMPLIED WE WERE BUILDING UP MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES BY RECENT SHIPMENT OF 24 TANKS, AND SUGGESTED THAT GOM WOULD BE TEMPTED TO USE THEM AGAINST SAHARA. SECRETARY DENIED WE WERE TURNING MOROCCO INTO MAJOR MILITARY POWER BUT NOTED OUR CONCERN WITH ALGERIA. HE TOLD CORTINA THAT WHILE WE DO NOT WANT MOROCCO TO ATTACK THE SAHARA, NEITHER DO WE WISH TO SEE ALGERIA ATTACK MOROCCO. CORTINA CONCLUDED

SAHARAN COMMENTS BY STATING THAT SPAIN WOULD WORK OUT SOME ACCOMODATION WITH MOROCCO, BUT THAT MOROCCANS WOULD ONLY BE HAPPY IF THEY GOT EVERYTHING AND SPANISH COULD NOT AGREE TO THAT. KISSINGER

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